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Joe McInnes
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

December 1, 2010

Mr. Bob Gray, Chairman
Franklin Field Airport Authority
214 North Prairie Street
Union Springs, Alabama 36089

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report
Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport**

Dear Mr. Gray:

An inspection of the Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on November 19, 2010. The purpose of the inspection was to update the information currently on file regarding the airport and to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Transportation governing licensed public-use airports within the State of Alabama.

Attached you will find a copy of the Annual Inspection Report for the airport. As noted in the report, the airport **does not** meet the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. The operating license for the airport is being withheld pending the required actions necessary to correct the safety deficiencies. The Code of Alabama 23-1-375 prohibits the operation of an airport for which a license has not been issued.

Once the deficiencies noted have been corrected, the airport authority should contact the Aeronautics Bureau to schedule a re-inspection. Failure to comply with the licensing requirements could result in a mandatory closure of the airport.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

John C. Eagerton IV, D.P.A.
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Rans Black, FAA/ADO
PDC Consultants, LLC

NOVEMBER 19, 2010



ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT



UNION SPRINGS (FRANKLIN FIELD) MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

UNION SPRINGS, ALABAMA

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Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

Introduction:

Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c). The department may perform such acts, issue and amend such orders and make, promulgate, or amend general or special rules, regulations, and procedures and establish minimum standards, consistent with the provisions of this article as it shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to perform its duties hereunder, all commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the general public interest, health, welfare, and safety. (Act 2000-220, 10.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c) an inspection of the Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport was conducted by Mr. Kline Jeffcoat of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on November 19, 2010.

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may have a bearing on the corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

Inspection Methodology:

The inspection of the required State Approach/Departure Path and Federal Runway Protection Zones was accomplished by the use of approved engineering methods and equipment. The angles, locations and heights of trees or other objects within these areas were derived by the use of a Theodolite and electronic distance measuring device.

All other areas of the inspection were conducted visually and photographed for reference purposes.

The FAA Airport Design Standards referred to in this report were taken from the Airport Layout Drawing (ALD) dated January 2006.

Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

License Status:

Code of Alabama 23-1-375(a). ...a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility without a license issued by the department.

Based upon the findings of the inspection conducted on November 19, 2010, it was determined that the airport **does not** meet the requirements for the issuance of an operating license.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code for the following areas:

1. Approach and Departure Paths Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1) (See Appendix 1)

State Licensing Standards:

- For all hard surface runways the approach and departure path begins 200 feet from the runway end (runway threshold).
- The approach and departure path for all runways is centered along the extended runway centerline and extends for 1000 feet.
- The approach and departure path for all runways slopes up at a ratio of 20:1.
- All penetrations of the approach and departure paths, whether natural or manmade, constitute an obstruction to navigation and must be removed.
- The land beneath the approach and departure path must be controlled by the airport owner. This is accomplished by ownership of the property in fee simple or by written perpetual agreement with the owner of the land.

Inspection Results:

- Runway 14 – Trees identified as Tree # 3 and Tree # 4 violation the ALDOT 20:1 approach/departure path (See Photo # 1 and Appendix # 2)
- Runway 32 – No Obstructions (See Photo # 2)

Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

Photo # 1 – Rwy 14 Violations



Photo # 2 – Rwy 32 Approach



Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

Action Required:

- The violations to the ALDOT Approach / Departure Path must be removed for an operating license to be issued.

2. Primary Surface **Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)**

State Licensing Standards:

- Primary Surface (See Appendix 1): The primary surface is 250 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline and extends 200 feet past the end of the marked runway. The primary surface is required to be free of all obstructions, manmade or natural. The only allowable objects are runway lights, guidance signs, or navigation equipment that by function is required to be within the primary surface boundaries.

Inspection Results:

- The primary surface meets state requirements.

Photo # 3 – Primary Surface



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Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport
Union Springs, Alabama**

November 19, 2010

**3. Runway Safety Area
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)**

State Licensing Standards:

- Runway Safety Area (Appendix 1): All runways are required to maintain an obstruction free area adjacent to each runway. This area is 120 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline, and extends for a distance of 200 feet past the runway end. The area must be compacted and graded smooth with no ruts, humps, depressions or other potentially hazardous surface variations. The slope along the longitudinal centerline shall not exceed a rise or fall of three percent in elevation relative to the runway end elevation. The lip from the top of the pavement to the grade adjacent to the runway should not exceed 3 inches.

Inspection Results:

- The grade of the runway safety area meets state requirements.

**4. Airport Markings
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)**

State Licensing Standards:

- Airport Markings: All runways are required to be marked in a manner identifying the boundaries of the landing areas. The runway markings must be painted white and be maintained in a legible condition.

Inspection Results:

- The runway markings are in poor condition (See Photo # 4 and # 5)

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Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport
Union Springs, Alabama**

November 19, 2010

Photo # 4 – Rwy 14 Markings



Photo # 5 – Rwy 32 Markings



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November 19, 2010

Maintenance:

- Markings should be replaced in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1J.

5. Wind Direction Indicator **Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)**

State Licensing Standards:

- Wind Direction Indicators: All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. It must be installed in a highly visible area and free from obstructions to ensure true wind direction and velocity. Night operations require the indicator be lighted.

Inspection Results:

- The wind direction indicator (wind cone) is operational.

Photo # 5 – Wind Direction Indicator



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6. Airport Lighting Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

State Licensing Standards:

- Airport Lighting: Runway lights and airport rotating beacons and a lighted wind direction indicator are required for night operations. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting shall be maintained in operational condition and shall not be obscured by natural growth such as grass and/or weeds.

Inspection Results:

- The results of the lighting system inspection is as follows:

Threshold Lights Rwy 32 – 5 of 6 inoperative with 2 fixtures missing
Threshold Lights Rwy 14 – 4 of 6 inoperative with 2 fixtures missing
Taxiway Lights – 5 of 5 inoperative
Runway Lights – 18 of 36 inoperative with 5 fixtures missing

Required Action:

- A 2010 Federal Grant is in place to rehabilitate the lighting system and the airport is closed to night operations as reflected in the Airport Facility Directory.

7. Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)

State Licensing Standards:

- Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions: All airport pavement surfaces associated with aircraft operations must be kept smooth and free of any defect or obstruction that could damage an aircraft. The lip of the airport pavement surfaces must not exceed three (3) inches in elevation from the top of the pavement to the shoulder. The drop should only be enough to allow sufficient drainage and not pose a control problem for aircraft exiting the runway. The aircraft parking apron is for the operation and parking of aircraft only and should be smooth and free of obstructions or defects that could cause damage to aircraft during operations.

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November 19, 2010

Inspection Results:

- The airport pavement surfaces were inspected and found to be in good condition, with the exception of a few areas where vegetation is growing through the surface of the runway.

Maintenance Required:

- The vegetation should be eradicated and the cracks cleaned and sealed.

8. Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

State Licensing Standards:

- Signs should be posted prohibiting open flames or smoking in fueling areas. The fueling facility must be labeled indicating the type fuel being dispensed.
- Grounding cables must be available.
- A fire extinguisher approved for the purpose of extinguishing petroleum product fires available during all fueling operations.
- Serviceable hoses and connections that would preclude a rupture or leaking of fuel.

Inspection Results:

- The fueling area meets the requirements established by the Alabama Department of Transportation. However, the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries may have additional requirements for fueling systems that were not considered during this inspection (See Photo # 6).

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November 19, 2010

Photo # 6 – Fuel Service



9. Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

State Licensing Standards:

- Prohibited Activities: The use of any portion of the aircraft operations area, or airport property within the boundaries of the imaginary surfaces of a licensed airport for any purpose other than the operation of aircraft shall be deemed a non-aeronautical activity and is prohibited.

Inspection Results:

- A new security fence has been installed around a majority of the airport property and no prohibited activities were observed during the inspection.

Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

Summary:

The table below summarizes items noted in this report.

INSPECTION SUMMARY

Inspection Area	Violation/Maintenance	Corrective Action
Approach Departure Path RWY 14	Violation	Remove obstructions to ALDOT Approach Departure Path
Markings	Maintenance	Replaced in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1J
Airport Lighting	Violation	Issue NOTAM, repair system
Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions	Maintenance	Remove vegetation, clean and seal cracks

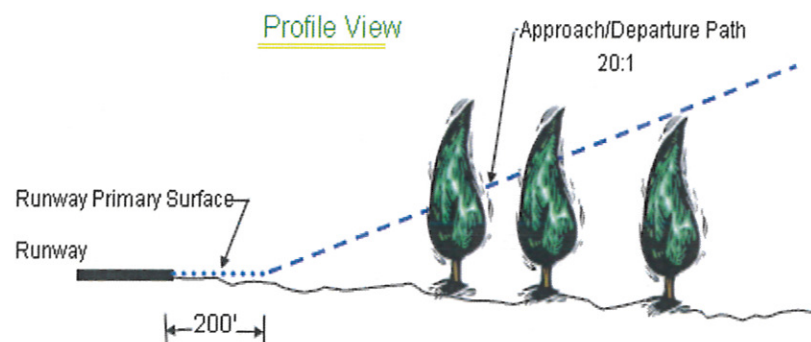
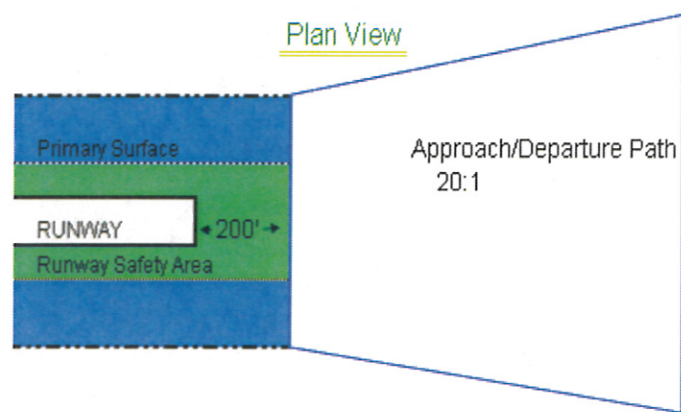
Included with this report is an airport safety self-inspection checklist. This checklist is taken from FAA Advisory Circular (AC) 150/5200-18C and should be used in accordance with this AC to develop your own self-inspection program.

Please contact the Aeronautics Bureau of the Alabama Department of Transportation at (334) 242-6820 with questions concerning the Annual Inspection Report.

Annual Inspection Report Union Springs (Franklin Field) Municipal Airport Union Springs, Alabama

November 19, 2010

Approach and Departure Path Dimensions			
Inner Width	Outer Width	Length	Acreage
250 Feet	450 Feet	1,000 Feet	8.04 Acres
Primary Surface Dimensions			
250 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			
Runway Safety Area Dimensions			
120 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			



APPENDIX 1

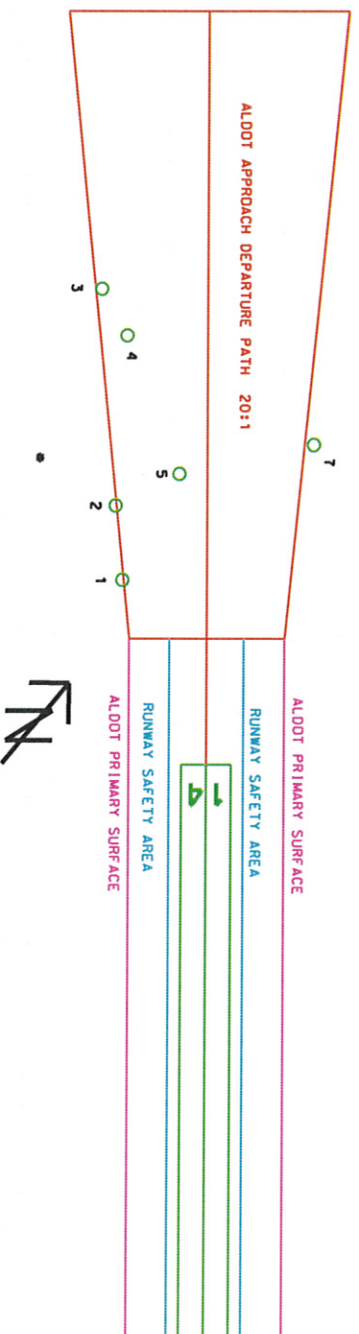
UNION SPRINGS (FRANKLIN FIELD) AIRPORT NOVEMBER 19, 2010

REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE AIRPORT LICENSE RUNWAY 14

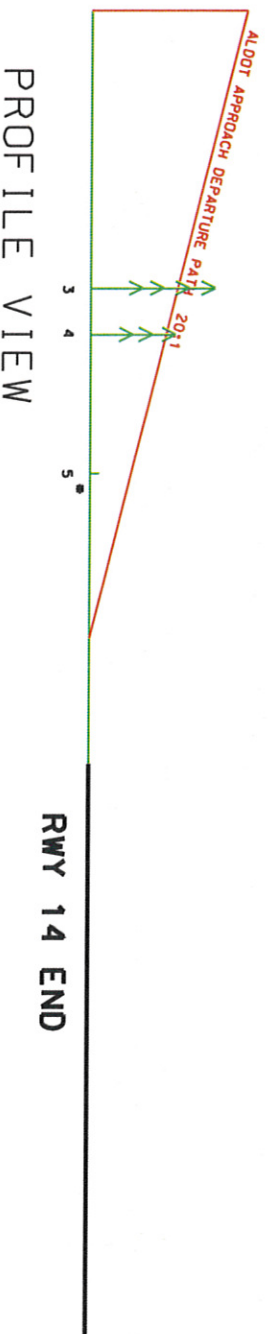
3. TREE - 39.8' ABOVE RUNWAY END
777' FROM RUNWAY END
171' RIGHT OF RUNWAY CENTERLINE
14:1 OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE SLOPE
4. TREE - 27.1' ABOVE RUNWAY END
696' FROM RUNWAY END
130' RIGHT OF RUNWAY CENTERLINE
18:1 OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE SLOPE
5. FENCE POST - 3' ABOVE RUNWAY END
465' FROM RUNWAY END
46' RIGHT OF RUNWAY CENTERLINE
91:1 OBSTRUCTION CLEARANCE SLOPE

* NOT AN OBSTRUCTION TO ALDOT
APPROACH/DEPARTURE PATH

NOTE: THIS SKETCH IS PROVIDED FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND
SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER
PURPOSES.



DRAWING NOT TO SCALE



PROFILE VIEW

AIRPORT SAFETY SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

DATE: _____ DAY: _____

✓ Satisfactory

X Unsatisfactory

Day Inspector/Time: _____ Night Inspector/Time: _____

FACILITIES	CONDITIONS	D	N	REMARKS	RESOLVED BY (Date/Initials)
Pavement Areas	Pavement lips over 3"				
	Hole - 5" diam. 3" deep				
	Cracks/spalling/heaves				
	FOD: gravel/debris/sand				
	Rubber deposits				
	Ponding/edge dams				
Safety Areas	Ruts/humps/erosion				
	Drainage/construction				
	Support equipment/aircraft				
	Frangible bases				
	Unauthorized objects				
Markings	Clearly visible/standard				
	Runway markings				
	Taxiway markings				
	Holding position markings				
	Glass beads				
Signs	Standard/meet Sign Plan				
	Obscured/operable				
	Damaged/retroreflective				

FACILITIES	CONDITIONS	D	N	REMARKS	RESOLVED BY (Date/Initials)
Lighting	Obscured/dirty/operable				
	Damaged/missing				
	Faulty aim/adjustment				
	Runway lighting				
	Taxiway lighting				
	Pilot control lighting				
Navigational Aids	Rotating beacon operable				
	Wind indicators				
	RENLS/VGSI systems				
Obstructions	Obstruction lights operable				
	Cranes/trees				
Fueling Operations	Fencing/gates/signs				
	Fuel marking/labeling				
	Fire extinguishers				
	Frayed wires				
	Fuel leaks/vegetation				
Snow & Ice	Surface conditions				
	Snowbank clearances				
	Lights & signs obscured				
	NAVAIDs				
	Fire access				

